S. No.	State	Capital	Available Connectivity
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvasa	MW and OFC
4.	Daman and Diu	Daman	MW and OFC
5.	Delhi	Delhi	MW and OFC
6.	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	SAT
7.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	OFC

MW*-Microwave, OFC**---Optical Fibre Cable, SAT***---Satellite

Modernisation of Postal Network

972. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a comprehensive action plan for expansion, upgradation, strengthening and modernization of postal network in the country during the current year and Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith physical and financial targets; State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the new schemes proposed for rendering better and improved services to the people in rural and urban areas particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the details thereof scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expansion—As per plan projection it is proposed to open 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs), 50 departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) and 1000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in current Plan year of the 9th five Year Plan. It is also proposed to open 500 EDBOs, 50 DSOs and 1000 PSSKs in the annual plan 2001-2002 of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. A target of 60 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 2 departmental Sub Post Offices and 85 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have been fixed for the state of Maharashtra.

Upgradation—There are well formulated specific norms for

upgradation of Sub Post Offices to Head Post Offices and action is taken to upgrade these Post Offices in light thereof as and when the same are found fulfilled in any specific case. On receipt of representations from public representatives and proposals from the Circles regarding upgradation of Sub Post Offices to Head Post Offices, the proposals are examined in the Directorate as per departmental norms.

Strengthening & Modernisation—The Department has taken up modernization programme of the Postal system from the beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan. A total of 2660 computer based multi-purpose counter machines were installed during the 8th Five Year Plan. During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 of the 9th Five Year Plan 918,1429 & 1250 machines respectively have been installed. 12 Crore transactions per year are being transacted on these machines. Action has been taken to modernize money transfer system by adopting Satellite Technology and Installation of 77 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) during the 8th Five Year Plan. 62 High Speed VSATs are in a process of being installed. 1.25 Crore Money Orders are being transmitted annually on the existing Network. Action has also been taken to automatise the processing of mail in major metropolitan cities. Automatic Mail Processing Systems have been installed in Chennai & Mumbai during the 8th Plan and about 12 lakh letters are being processed daily on these systems. Two more Automatic Mail Processing Centers are proposed to be installed by 31st March 2002 in Calcutta & Delhi. 41 offices have been computerized during the first 3 years of the 9th Five Year Plan with a view of automatising the processing of registered articles & insured articles etc.

In so far as Maharashtra is concerned, the position during last 3 years has been as under:

Total No. of Multi-purpose Machines installed in whole of country	3597	In Maharashtra	339
ESMOs in the country	584	In Maharashtra	43
Offices modernised in the country	481	In Maharashtra	33

Expenditure on Modernization in country (in crores)	19.4516	In Maharashtra	1.3735
Present allotment for the current Financial year for the whole country for modernization	4.30 Crores	In Maharashtra	0.25 Crores

(c) and (d) The department has started a large number of schemes/activities in the Ninth Plan for providing better and improved services to the people. The department does not draw Plans Statewise. However, the details of the Ninth Plan of the department and the annual Plan 2000-2001 are enclosed at Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Ninth Plan of the department of Posts

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
Expansion of Postal network		
Opening of Extra Departmental Post Offices	27.68	2500
Opening of departmental Sub Post Offices		250
Provision of Infrastructural equipment to EDBOs	12	24000
Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	3.02	2700
Sub Total	42.7	
Upgradation of Technology		
Satellite MO		
Installation of ESMOs	14.5	1450
Installation of VSATs	15	50
Upgradation of VSATs	1	21
Facility for centralised upgradation of software	0.05	
Modernisation of money transfer system	1.5	50 offices
PC based Counter machines including SB LANs	41	5000

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
Modernisation of POs	33.53	500 Post Offices and 5 major HOs
Consumables for MPCMs/VSATs	20	
Software refinement/consultancy	1.5	
Mechanical equipment	5	
Hand Cancelers		10000
Stamp cancelling machines		100
Electronic franking machines		500
Tying and Bundling machines		30
Sub Total	133.08	
Material Management		
Computerisation of PSDs and networking with Dte	1.2	15 PSDs and Networking
Training in systems operation to officials		150
Sub Total	1.2	
Human Resource Development		
Training		
In-service training for Group 'A' Officers	0.36	180
In-service Training for Group "C" officials including Supervisors	3.15	15750
Decentralised training for EDBPMs	1.02	51000
Computer training to officials	5	12000
Refresher training for SB/SC work	1.8	16051
Infrastructural development including buildings in training centres	2.75	
Sub Total	14.08	
MODERNISATION OF MAIL PROCESSING		
In-house computerisation		
Mail office modernisation	2	120
Upgradation of Operational Equipment for sorting		
Provision of OCR facility in AMPCs	11.5	
Culling, facing and cancelling machine in AMPCs	11.5	
Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System	80	2
Upgradation of operational equipment for delivery	1.25	500

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
TMO computerisation	2.5	25
HRO/DOs computerisation	2.66	20
Registration Sorting office computerisation	3.5	22
Upgradation/Expansion of Mailnet	1	7
International postal system project (Track and Trace-EMS)	0.62	
Computerisation of International Mail Accounting (A/cs at HRO and DAA section of Directorate RMS Vans	1.27	
Fabrication of new Air brake mail vans	20	28
Modication of existing RMS Vans and their conversion in air brake system	1	30
Mail Motor Service Purchase of MMS Vehicles and body building	2.5	50
Sub Total	141.3	
Business Development & Marketing		
In-house computerisation Computerisation of PPCs in Nodal Offices & Networking	0.4	40
Computerisation of SPCCs	2.25	50
Mechanisation of Pick up and delivery	0.4	40 centres
Modernising business office for Speed Post	2.25	5
Refresher training for staff working in premium products	0.2	500
Promotion of premium products including Speed Post	5	
Market surveys	0.5	
Mass mailing, inserting and sealing equipment	6.8	4 centres
Sub Total	17.8	
Computerisation of Savings Bank in Post Offices		
SBCO computerisation in offices	0.9	100 offices
Consumables/Software and other recurring expenditure	Now taken up under Upgradation of technology 0.9	

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
Postal Life Insurance		
Computerisation of RPLI work in Regions	5.73	32 regions
Upgradation of computer systems in Circles	1	20 circles
PLI-payment for professional services Training in Computers to officials	0.18	450
Training in Marketing/sales promotion/publicity to officials	0.09	100
RPLI-payment for professional services Training in insurance to Departmental officials & EDAs	0.14	174000 EDAs
Incentive for insurance operation and medical fee Market Surveys	5.95 0.03	
Advertisement, sales and publicity	1.3	
Sub Total	14.42	
Modernisation & Development of Philately		
Computerisation	2.6	52 existing and 200 new Bureaux
Tools and equipment for Bureaux	0.62	
Market Research and Surveys	0.25	
Publicity	1.25	
Training of officials in promotion of Philately	0.4	500
Sub Total	5.12	
Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters Heritage building maintenance	4	
Construction of post offices/mail offices	30.07	100 (to be completed) & 85 (to be commenced)
Construction of staff quarters	22	700 (to be completed) & 100 (to be commenced)

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
Construction of administrative offices	5.5	6(to be completed) & 6 (to be commenced)
Purchase of Land	2.55	
Petty works including repairs and maintenance	13.5	
Spill over on ongoing projects	42	
Sub Total	119.62	
Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management		
In house computerisation		
Development of *MIS interlinking* all regional and circle head quarters with Dte.	3	
Computerisation of various items of work in Postal Accounts Offices and Budget branches in Circles.	3.63	
Computerisation of Administrative Branches in Dte. for monitoring and administering Plan programmes.	3	
Sub Total	9.63	
Public Grievances		
Customer Care Centres	7.4	228
Grand Total	507.25	

Statement II

Annual Plan 2000-2001 of Department of Posts

(Rs. in crores)

ACTIVITY	2000-2001	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
EXPANSION OF POSTAL NETWORK		
Opening of Extra Departmental Post Offices	6.64	500
Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices		50
Provision of Infrastructural equipment to EDBOs	1.43	8000
Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	0.82	1000
Sub Total	8.89	
UPGRADATION OF TECHNOLOGY		
Satellite MO		
Installation of ESMOs	3	456

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	Ninth Plan	
	Fin. Outlay	Phys. Target
Installation of VSATS	6.35	88
PC based Counter machines including SB LANs	5.3	1000
Modernisation of POs	4.3	100
Consumables for MPCMs/VSATs	4	
Software refinement/consultancy	0.8	
Mechanical equipment		
Stamp cancelling machines		20
Electronic franking machines		100
Sub Total	23.75	
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT		
Computerisation of PSDs and networking with Dte	0.63	
Sub Total	0.63	
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT		
Training		
In-service Training for Group 'A' officers	0.08	40
In-service Training for Group "C" officials including	0.64	5120
Decentralised training for EDBPMs	0.29	14073
Computer training to officials	0.86	2000
Refresher training for SB/SC work	0.26	2167
Infrastructural development including buildings in training centres	0.6	
Sub Total	2.73	
MODERNISATION OF MAIL PROCESSING		
In-house computerisation		
Mail office modernisation	0.26	20
Upgradation of Operational Equipment for sorting		
Culling, facing and cancelling machine in AMPCs	11.87	
Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System	27.63	1
Upgradation of operational equipment for delivery	0.26	150
TMO computerisation	0.64	5
HRO/DOs computerisation	0.6	7
Registration Sorting office computerisation	0.51	4
Upgradation/Expansion of Mailnet	0.17	1
International postal system project (Track and Trace-EMS)	0.13	
Computerisation of International Mail Accounting (A/cs at HRO and DAA section of Directorate	0.51	
RMS Vans		
Modication of existing RMS Vans and their conversion in air brake	0.09	2
Mail Motor Service		
Purchase of MMS Vehicles and body building	0.68	13
Sub Total	43.35	

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING		
In-house computerisation		
Computerisation of PPCs in Nodal Offices & Networking	0.43	5
Computerisation of SPCCs		10
Mechanisation of pick up and delivery	0.007	10
Modernising business office for Speed Post	0.98	2
Refresher training for staff working in premium products	0.03	100
Promotion of premium products including Speed Post	0.03	
Market surveys	0.07	
Mass mailing, inserting and sealing equipment	1.46	1
Sub Total	3.07	
MODERNISATION & DEVELOPMENT OF PHILATELY		
Computerisation	1.09	120
Tools and equipment for Bureaux	0.16	53 and 25 counters
Publicity	0.33	
Training of officials in promotion of Philately	0.16	200
Sub Total	1.74	
POSTAL BUILDINGS AND STAFF QUARTERS		
Heritage building maintenance	2.65	
Construction of post offices/mail offices	7.66	30
Construction of staff quarters	6.72	236
Construction of administrative offices	1.72	3
Purchase of Land	0.21	
Petty works including repairs and maintenance	1.72	
Spill over on ongoing projects	1.37	
Sub Total	22.05	
STREAMLINING OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT		
In house computerisation		
Computerisation of various items of work in Postal Accounts Offices and Budget branches in Circles.	0.2	
Computerisation of Administrative Branches in Dte. for monitoring and administering Plan programmes	0.75	4
Sub Total	0.95	
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES		
Customer Care Centres	0.84	45
NE allocation	12	
Grand Total	**120**	